Registered No. M. 1178.

The Mysore Gazette

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

Vol. 81] BANGALORE, THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1946 [No. 24

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PART I

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ORDERS

GENERAL DEPARTMENT

Reviews the Annual Report on the Administration of the Labour Department during the year ended 30th June 1945.

READ—

Letter No. A. 1196—44-45, dated 17th December 1945, from the Commissioner of Labour in Mysore, submitting a report on the administration of the Labour Department during the year ended with 30th June 1945.

ORDER No. S. R. 5697-99—LAW. 71-45-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 5TH JUNE 1946.

Recorded.

General.—Labour conditions in the State were generally peaceful except in the Kolar Gold Field where the employees numbering about 18,000 went on strike for about a month from the third week of May 1945 as a result of the failure of conciliation proceedings regarding their demands for increased rate of wages, service gratuity and a change in the Standing Orders. The employees resumed work, following the reference of the dispute to a Court of Arbitration.

Damage at Sivasamudram.—The conditions of depression caused by the stoppage of electric power due to the damage to the generating station at Sivasamudram during the close of the year 1943-44 showed rapid revival with the expeditious repair of the power plant at Sivasamudram and restoration of power supply. By the end of December 1944, most of the thrown-out employees had resumed their original occupations in the several industrial undertakings. The unemployed workers of the Kolar Gold Field numbering about 1,500 who had been sent to the collieries in Bihar and Orissa also returned to the fields at the commencement of the year and resumed their employment.

Employment Exchange.—The Employment Exchange started in June 1944 has been found to be greatly useful in supplying the required men to the industrial concerns engaged in War effort and in serving as an Information Bureau to both the workers and employers. The number of persons registered at the Exchange was 1,043, the number of demands placed by the employing agencies was 1,481 and the number of persons referred to employers was 919. Definite programmes with regard to the absorption of the ex-service men and demobilised personnel have been chalked out and will be put into operation on the lines indicated by the Government of India.

The Unskilled Labour Committee gave useful suggestions or recruitment of unskilled labour for military works.

Labour Welfare.—The provision of amenities and welfare measures continued to receive the constant attention of the employers of labour in the State, as a result of intervention and guidance of the department. Some of the welfare measures recommended by the departmeut were the following:—

(1) Starting of industrial canteens for the supply of healthy cooked food either free or on the basis of payment (payment meaning supply of food at net cost).

(2) Housing.

(3) Concessions in the matter of service taxes to canteens run departmentally by the industrial workers and free supply of electricity to canteens, tea-rooms, refreshment rooms, tiffin rooms, and lunch rooms, according to the procedure followed by the Government of India.

(4) Free Medical Aid.

(5) Co-operative Societies attached to industrial concerns for supply of food grains.

(6) Recreation and Sports Club.

(7) Free Reading Rooms and Library.

In addition to the welfare amenities provided by the industrial concerns, the two model labour recreation centres run by the department in the working class areas in Bangalore City continued to attract about 800 to 1,000 labourers every day. Indoor games, Bhajana parties, reading rooms and libraries provided at each centre are growing in popularity. As a result, the registered labour associations are coming forward to start similar centres under their auspices, and have represented the need for and grant of subsidies as funds at their disposal are inadequate.

Labour Associations.—At the beginning of the year, there were fifty-two associations of employees registered under the Mysore Labour Act. During the year, six more associations were registered, bringing the total number of associations to 58 at the close of the year, with a total membership of 27,962. Of these, 12 associations belonged to Government Industrial Concerns and 46 to private concerns run on joint-stock basis.

The total receipts of Labour Associations amounted to Rs. 49,209-12-8 and expenditure to Rs. 2,662-1-2 during the year under report, as against Rs. 51,742-0-0 and Rs. 34,374-3-11, respectively, during the previous year.

Standing Orders.—Standing Orders in respect of 52 industrial undertakings had been settled and in respect of six Labour Associations registered during the year were under settlement.

Industrial Disputes.—Seven industrial disputes were pending with the Chief Conciliator at the beginning of the year. During the year, 48 cases were referred to him, thus bringing the total number of cases for disposal to 55. Out of these, settlements were reached in three cases, four cases were withdrawn, failure reports were published in 20 cases and 28 cases were pending. Four industrial disputes in which conciliation proceedings failed were referred to the Court of Arbitration.

Workmen's Compensation Act.—There were in all 3,278 (3,329) cases of injuries by accidents during the year in respect of which compensation paid under the Mysore Workmen's Compensation Act amounted to Rs. 3,73,838 (Rs. 1,97,929). Out of these, compensation paid in respect of occupational diseases, particularly silicosis in the Kolar Gold Fields, amounted to Rs. 2,72,124. The question of appointing a medical officer for conducting survey of occupational diseases is under the consideration of Government.

Maternity Benefit Act.—The provisions of the Mysore Maternity Benefit Act were extended to the Mining Areas also during the year under report.

Labour Welfare Board.—The Labour Welfare Board met twice during the year and reviewed the labour conditions. The following were some of the important subjects considered by the Board :—

(1) Starting of industrial canteens either free or on the basis of payment at net cost in such of the industrial concerns as had not started industrial canteens.

(2) Starting of a labour journal.

(3) Training classes in spinning and mat weaving at Kolar Gold Fields.

(4) Housing of industrial labour in Bangalore and Mysore Cities.

(5) Introduction of legislation to fix minimum wage to workers engaged in sweated industries.

(6) Compulsory insurance of liability under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

(7) Revision of the Indian Trade Disputes Act.

(8) Participation of States in the Sickness Insurance Scheme for industrial labour in India.

(9) Organisation of employment in the transition period from war to peace.

(10) Concessions in the matter of service taxes to canteens run departmentally.

Labour Legislation.—The enactment of legislation regarding the employment of children in factories, the amendment of labour laws and the question of conducting a survey of occupational diseases in the State with a view to extending legislation are among the items engaging the attention of Government.

A committee has been appointed to consider the amendment of labour laws in certain respects. The committee is also considering proposals for unemployment insurance.

War Production.—The value of war orders received by the several industrial concerns engaged in war production during the year amounted to Rs. 1'91 crores. Industrial workers were given facilities in securing food grains through the Co-operative Societies functioning under the control of the arge industrial undertakings.

There was appreciable improvement in the earnings of industrial workers.

Labour Conference.—The department took part in the deliberations of the All-India Labour Conference and Standing Labour Committee convened by the Government of India at New Delhi.

With the reorganisation of the department on a permanent basis, it is hoped that it will tackle all post-war labour problems, and bridge the gulf between the labour and capital by creating harmony and amicability between the two.

MOHAMED ISMAIL SHERIFF, *Genl. Secy.*

EDUCATION SECRETARIAT

Sanctions the opening of a Municipal High School at Vadigenahalli, Devanahalli Taluk, with effect from the school year 1946-47.

READ—

Letter No. Dl. 2697-96—45-46, dated the 21st March 1946, from the Director of Public Instruction in Mysore regarding the opening of a Municipal High School at Vadigenahalli, Devanahalli Taluk.

ORDER NO. E. 7456-7—EDN. 44-45-24, DATED BANGALORE, THE 27TH MAY 1946.

The Director of Public Instruction, agreeing with the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, states that there is need for a High School at Vadigenahalli, Devanahalli Taluk. The Municipal Council, Vadigenahalli, are agreeable to meet their share of the recurring and non-recurring cost of the school. They have also agreed to deposit the guarantee fund of Rs. 5,000. The District Board, Bangalore District, have agreed to make a contribution of Rs. 300 during 1946-47, Rs. 400 during 1947-48 and Rs. 500 during 1948-49 for the High School.

A sum of Rs. 25,000 has already been collected from public subscriptions for putting up a suitable building for the school and a further sum of Rs. 5,000 is proposed to be collected for the purpose. Till the new building is constructed, the Municipal Council are agreeable to take up a building on rent for housing the school and to meet the cost thereof.

In the circumstances, the Director of Public Instruction recommends that a Municipal High School with only one section in the First year class may be sanctioned to Vadigenahalli with effect from the school year 1946-47, the second and the third year classes being opened during the years 1947-48 and 1948-49, respectively.

The recommendation of the Director of Public Instruction is sanctioned. The cost during the year 1946-47, namely, Rs. 960 (Rupees nine hundred and sixty) per annum recurring and Rs. 1,500 (Rupees one thousand and five hundred) non-recurring will be met from the lumpsum provision that will be made in the budget for the purpose and necessary provision will be made in the budgets of the subsequent years. The details of the classes to be started, expenditure, fee income, grants from Government, etc., are shown in the statement appended hereto.

N. S. HIRANNAYYA, *Edn. Secy.*